THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Department of Posts is using technology to provide technology-based services like e-Post, Instant Money Order (iMO), electronic Money Order (eMO), e-Payment, International Money Transfer Service (IMTS), Speed Post tract and trace, Online booking of complaints, etc. Besides, Department has introduced Multipurpose Counter Machines (MPCM) as a single window system for all postal transactions. Information kiosks have been provided at selected Post Offices as allow public to access Postal information.

Tariff of BSNL and MTNL

†1349. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to bring down the tariff of BSNL's and MTNL's mobile and basic phones to compete with private operators in view of increasing competition in telecommunication sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and whether there is any plan to do so in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) As per the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act of 1997, the power to regulate tariff of telecom services in the country is vested with TRAI. TRAI, in exercise of its powers, has put tariff for telecom services under forbearance except with regard to Fixed Line Service in Rural Areas, National Roaming Service in Cellular Mobile Service and leased line service. Thus service providers, including BSNL and MTNL, have the flexibility to offer lower call charges to the subscribers. Both BSNL and MTNL keep revising their tariffs as per the needs of the subscribers and prevailing market conditions. Presently offered tariffs, by BSNL and MTNL, are competitive in comparison to private operators.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Speed post facility

1350. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Speed post facility is available only in cities in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of speed post centres running in each State as on date;

(d) whether Government proposes to extend such facilities to rural areas;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Speed Post facility is available in cities as well as in rural areas in the country. The details are given in the enclosed Statement-I. (*See* below)

(c) There are 315 National Speed Post Centres and 991 State Speed Post Centres in the country. State-wise number of Speed Post Centres is given in the enclosed Statement-II. (*See* below)

(d) to (f) The facility of Speed Post is extended taking into account the market requirements, customers needs, expected business, transport facilities available. The details of availability of speed post service in rural areas in also given in the enclosed Statement-I.

Statement-I

Details of Speed Post facility available in cities as well as Rural Areas

Number of National and State Speed Post Centres in the country		No. of Speed Post Booking Outlets in the Circle		No. of Speed Post delivery outlets in the Circle	
Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
204	1102	11479	10129	15414	5710

Statement-II

State-wise number of Speed Post Centres

Name of Circles	No. of National Speed Post Centres	No. of State Speed Post Centres	No. of Speed Post Booking Outlets in the Circle	No. of Speed Post delivery outlets in the Circle
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	26	52	1652	1271
Assam	08	14	375	3898
Bihar	12	49	958	887
Chhattisgarh	06	30	74	36
Delhi	01	—	265	92
Gujarat	09	52	360	276
Haryana	16	02	487	293
Himachal Pradesh	05	17	431	423
Jammu and Kashmir	02	17	90	222

1	2	3	4	5
Jharkhand	05	77	169	159
Karnataka	25	09	1522	1192
Kerala	14	29	4818	4789
Madhya Pradesh	13	77	677	277
Maharashtra	13	74	1952	1517
North East	09	100	46	85
Orissa	06	38	1271	984
Punjab	17	13	528	58
Rajasthan	08	36	1105	866
Tamil Nadu	47	108	1917	1692
Uttar Pradesh	43	32	1986	1416
Uttarakhand	15	14	196	29
West Bengal	13	151	729	662
APS	02	0	0	0
TOTAL:	315	991	21608	21124

Profit/loss for BSNL

1351. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the income-expenditure and profit/loss for BSNL for the financial year 2008-09;

(b) whether there is profit, how much profit; whether it is more than last year or less;

(c) if it is less, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the remedial actions to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT): (a) Income-expenditure and profit/loss details of BSNL for the year 2008-09 are as follows:—

(Rs. in crores)

Income	34937
Expenditure	33497
Profit before tax	1440
Profit after tax	104